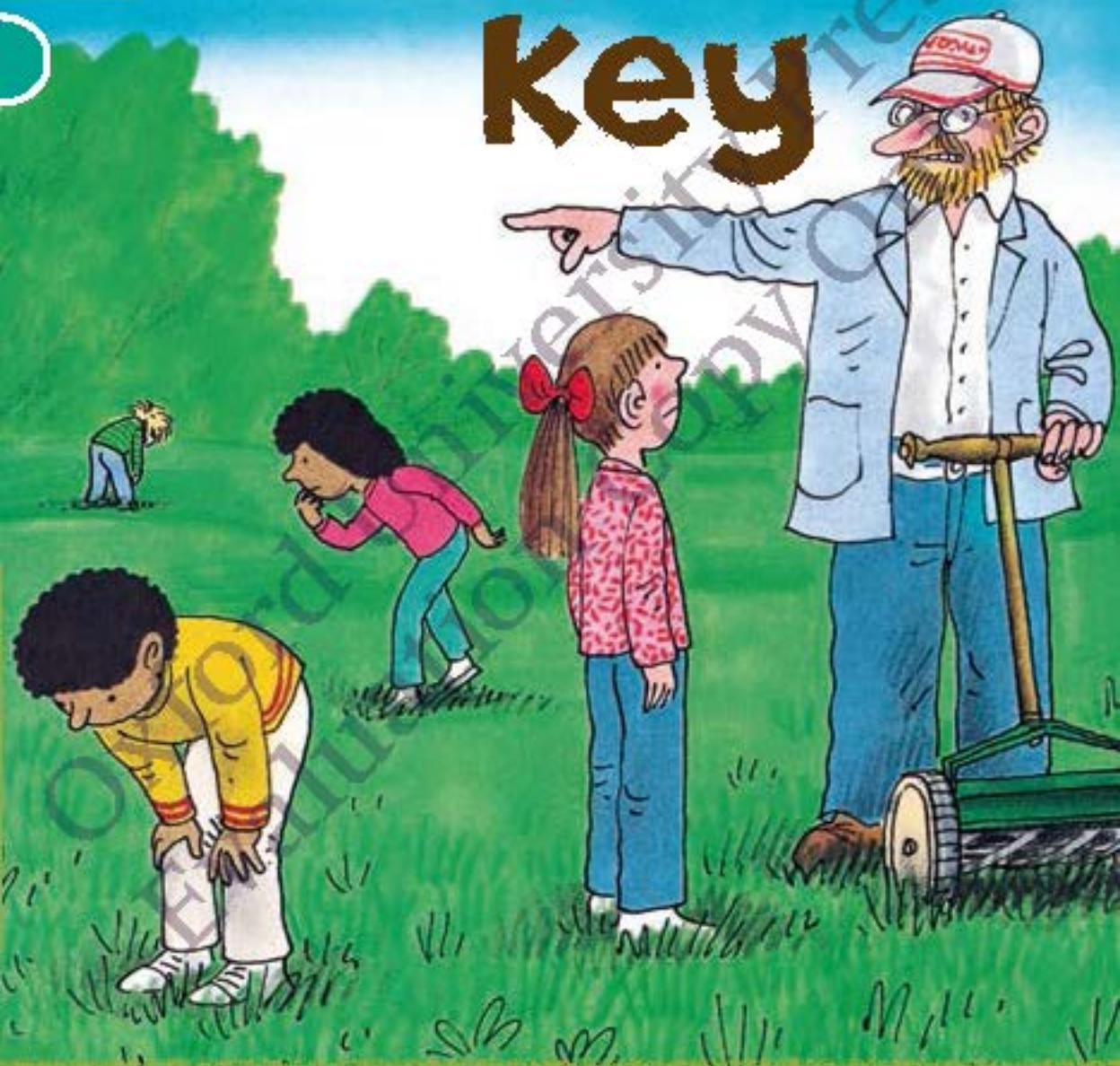


The Lost Key





Written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrated by Alex Brychta

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the cover and read the title together. Ask: *How do you think the children felt when the key was lost?*
- Talk about times when your child has lost something.
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child will probably be able to read most of the words in this book. Encourage your child to sound out and blend any challenging words, such as those below. If necessary, model the blending or read the words for your child.

fault mower wouldn't

DURING READING

Enjoy the story together. If your child needs support to read the story:

- Remind your child to blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover for more ideas.



Kipper wanted a magic adventure but the magic key would not glow. It had not glowed for a long time.

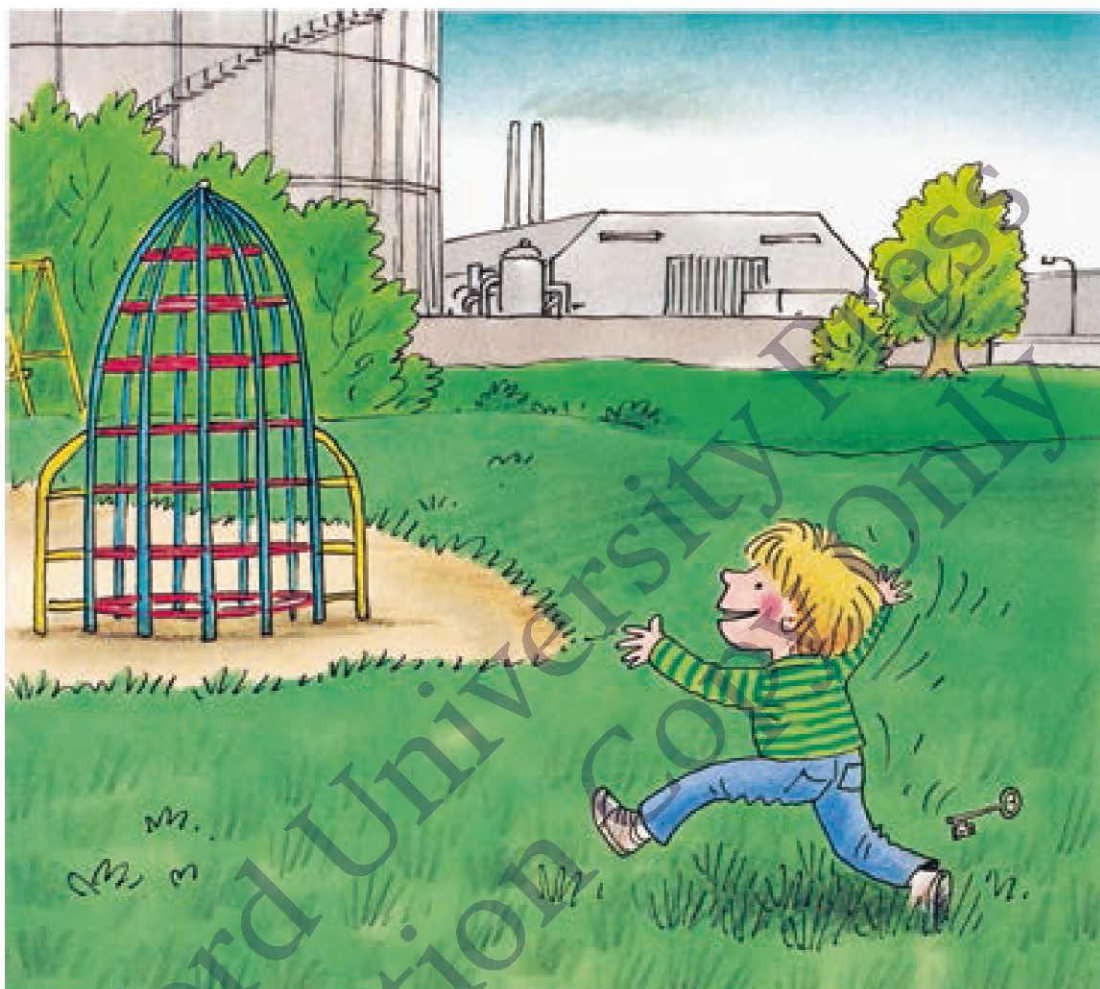
“Maybe it will glow if I keep it with me,” he thought, so he put it in his pocket.



Mum had to go shopping. She wanted Kipper to go with her.

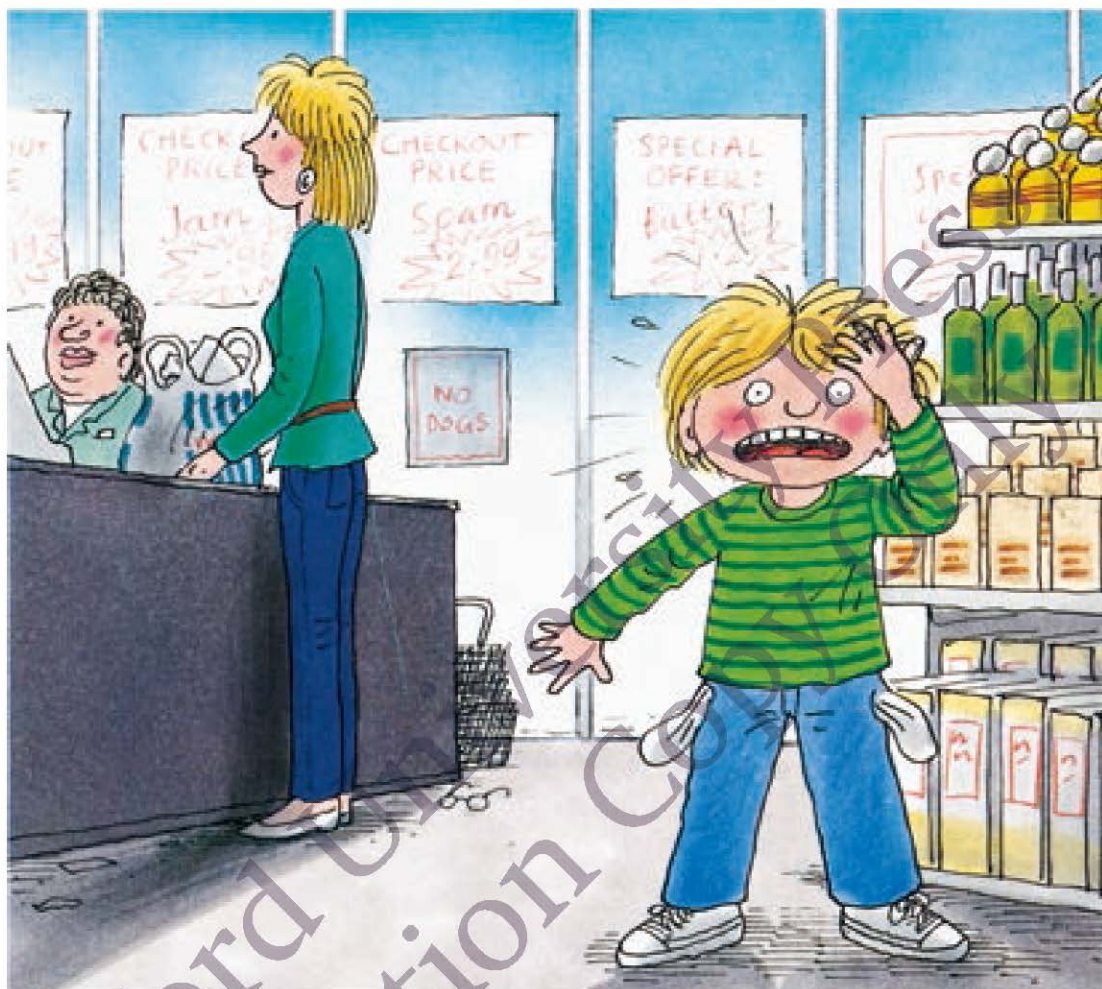
“I want to get you some new trainers,” she said, “so come on.”

Kipper forgot he had the key in his pocket.



On the way to the shops, Mum let Kipper stop and play. He ran to the rocket and the key fell out of his pocket and on to the grass.

“Look at me, Mum!” he called.



Kipper looked in his pockets but the key was not there.

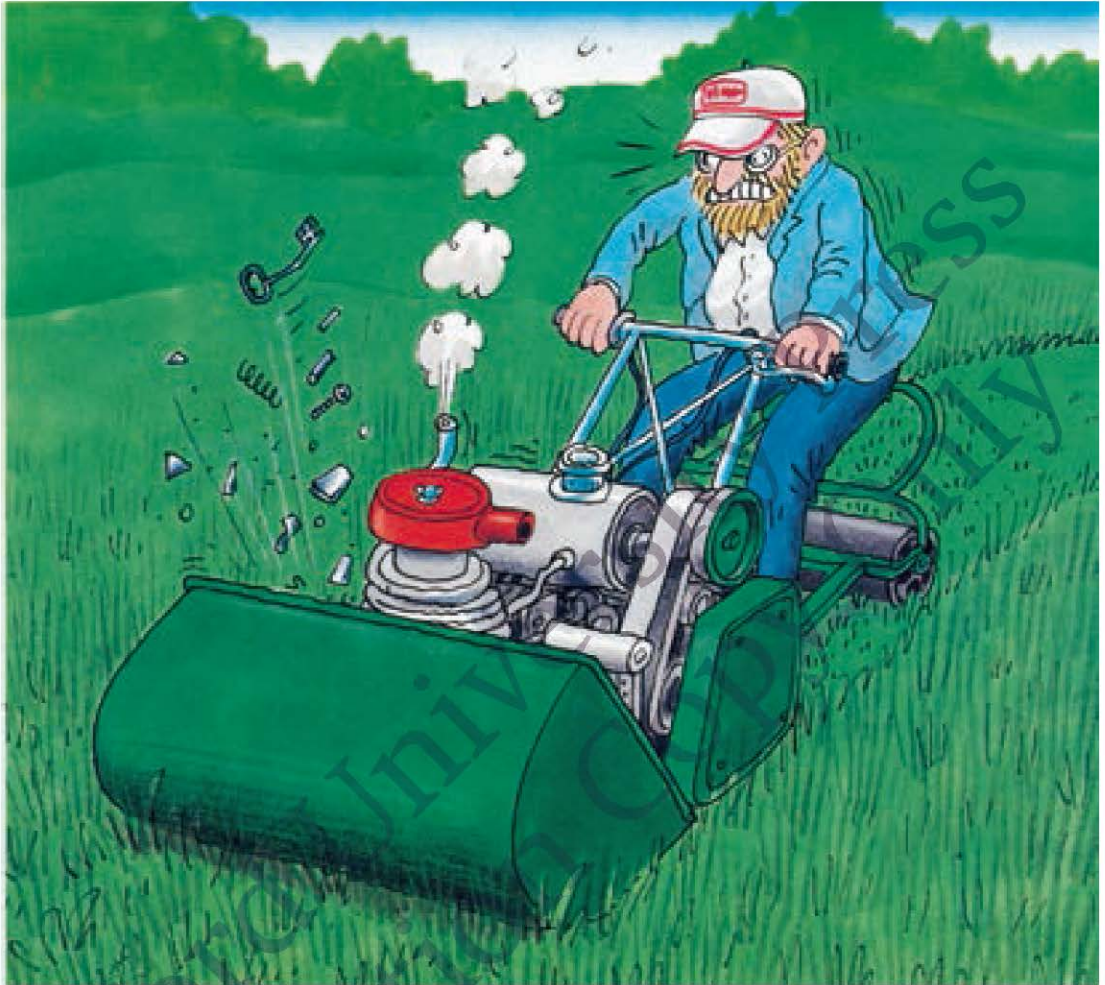
“Oh no!” said Kipper. “Where is the key? I can’t have lost it, can I?”

But he had lost the key.



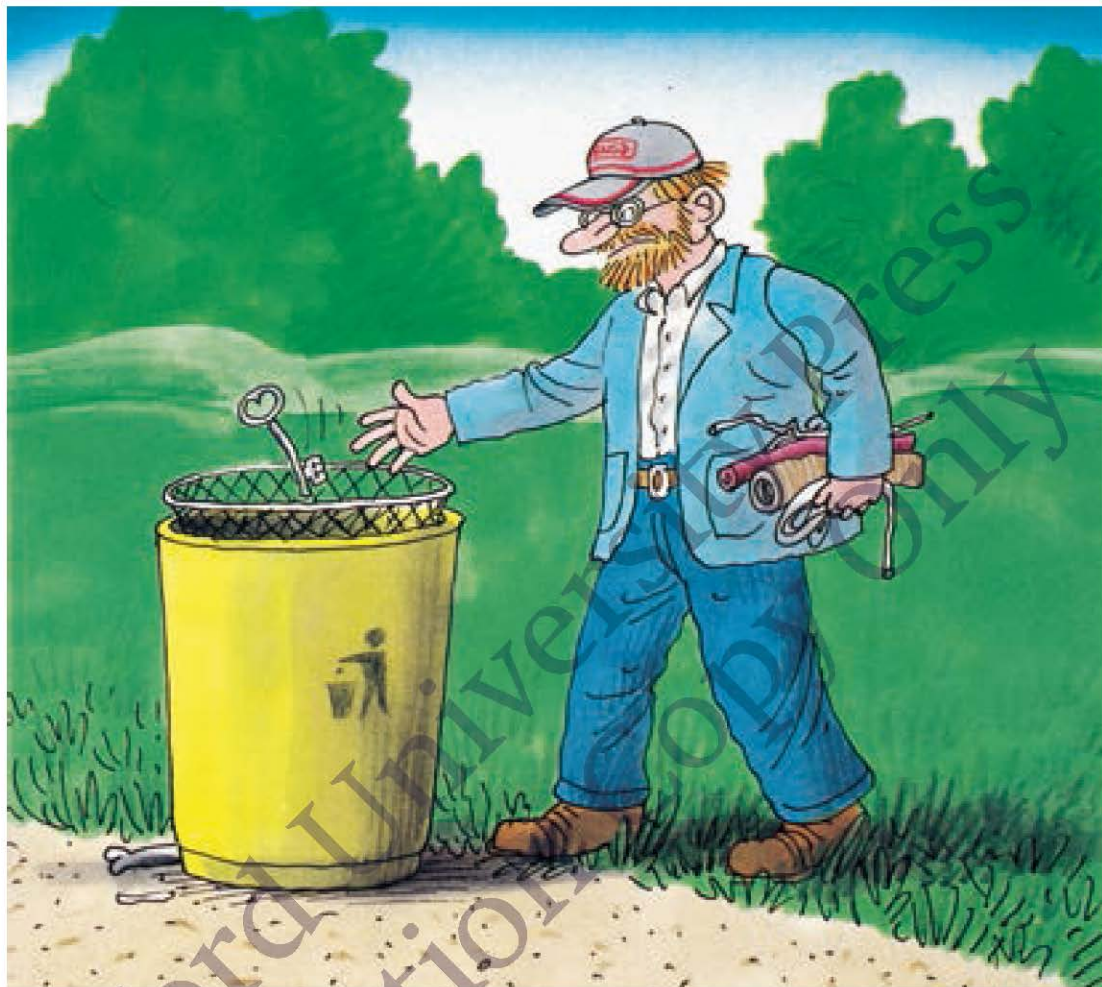
Kipper wanted to go and look for the key, but Mum would not let him. It had started to rain and Mum wanted to get home.

“Ask Biff and Chip to look for it,” she said.



A man came to cut the grass. He cut it with a mower. The mower ran over the magic key with a clang.

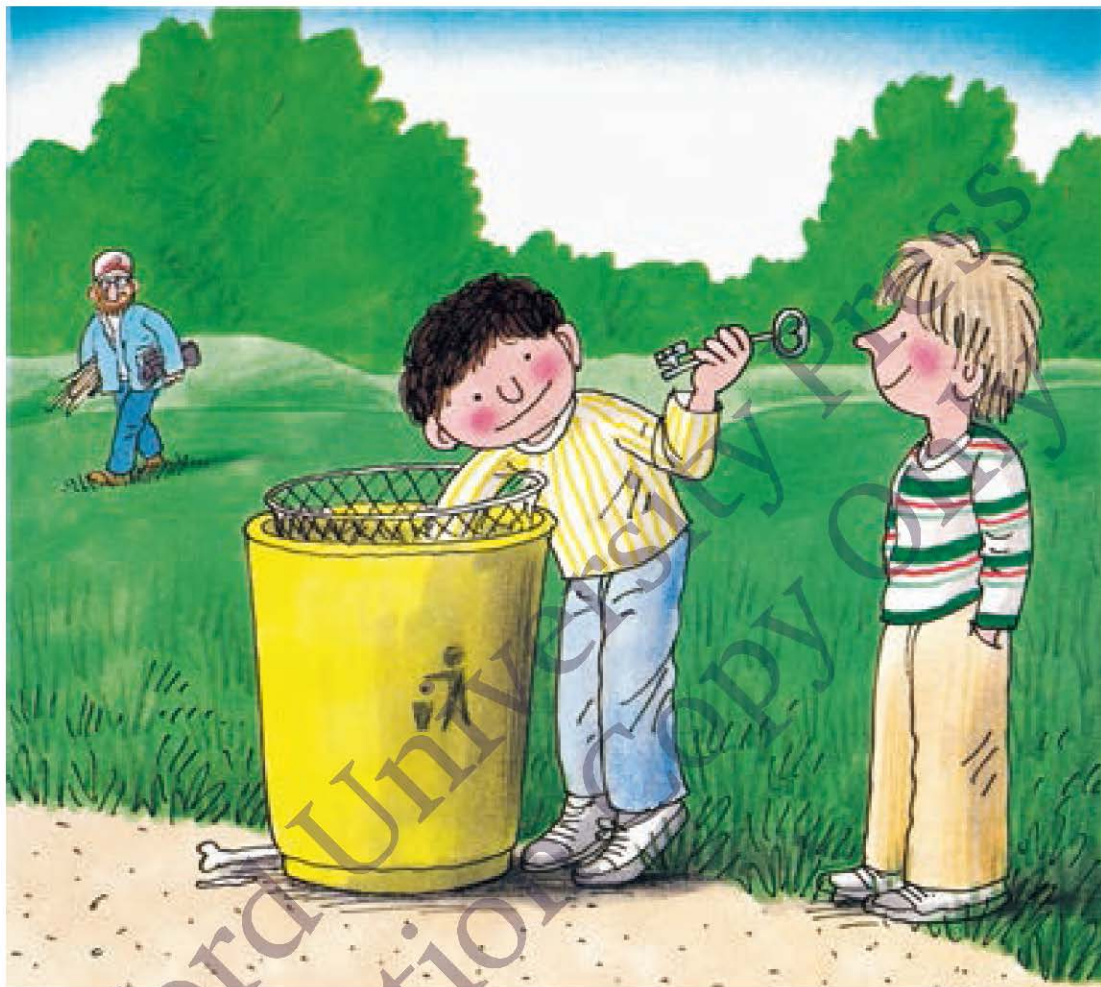
“What was that?” said the man.



The key had broken the mower.

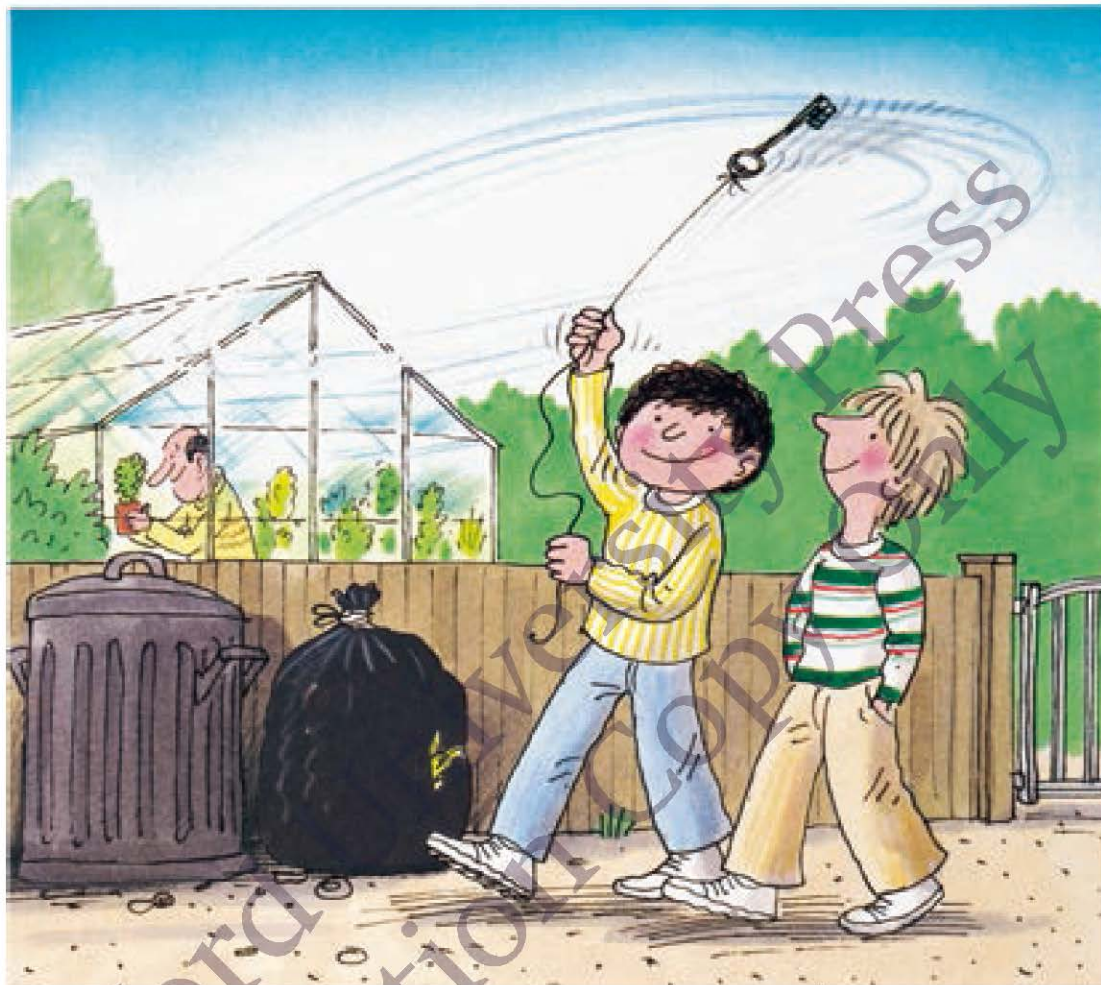
“Grrrrr!” the man said, crossly. “Now I shall have to mend the mower.”

He was so cross that he threw the magic key in a bin.



Two boys came to play on the swings.
One of the boys looked in the bin and
found the key.

“Look at this old, bent key,” he said.
“What shall we do with it?”



The boys took the key with them. One of them had some string. He tied the key to the string and spun it round and round.



Suddenly the string broke and the key flew through the air. It hit a greenhouse with a crash and broke the glass.

“Oh no!” said the boys.



“Look at my greenhouse!” yelled the man. “The glass is broken.”

The boys ran away as fast as they could.

“Just you come back here,” called the man.



Kipper had to tell Biff and Chip that he had lost the magic key.

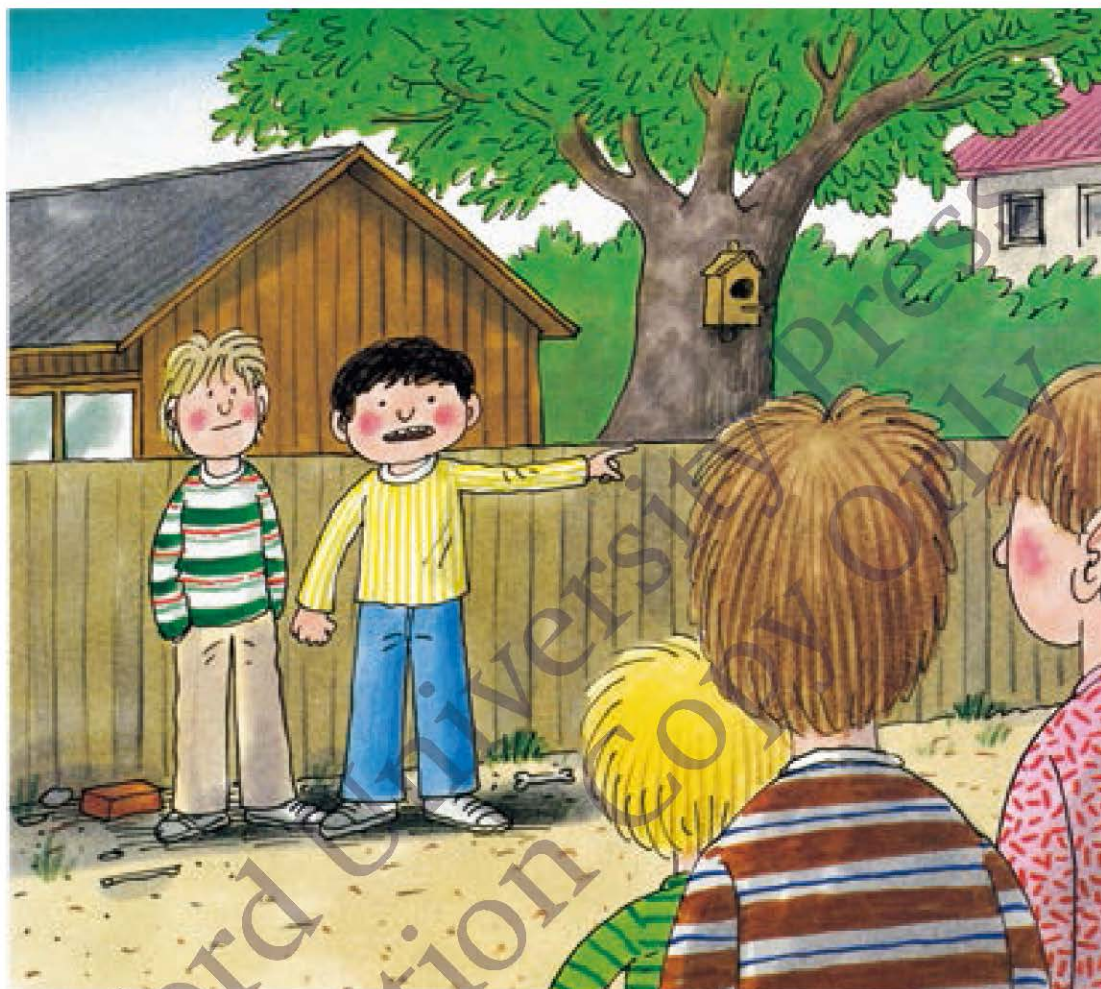
“I think I lost it by the rocket,” he said, “but Mum wouldn’t let me look for it.”

“Come on,” said Chip. “We must find it.”



Wilf and Wilma helped them look for the lost key. Biff asked the man if he had seen it.

“Yes,” said the man. “I threw it in that bin, but two boys took it out.”



The children saw the two boys. They asked them if they had found the key.

“Yes,” said the boys, “but we lost it again. We broke a man’s greenhouse with it.”



They saw the man with the greenhouse.

“We are sorry about the broken glass,”
said Chip, “but could we have the key?”

“Sorry,” said the man. “I sold the key to
the junk shop to help pay for the glass.”



The children went to the junk shop. They told the lady about the key and asked her if she had it.

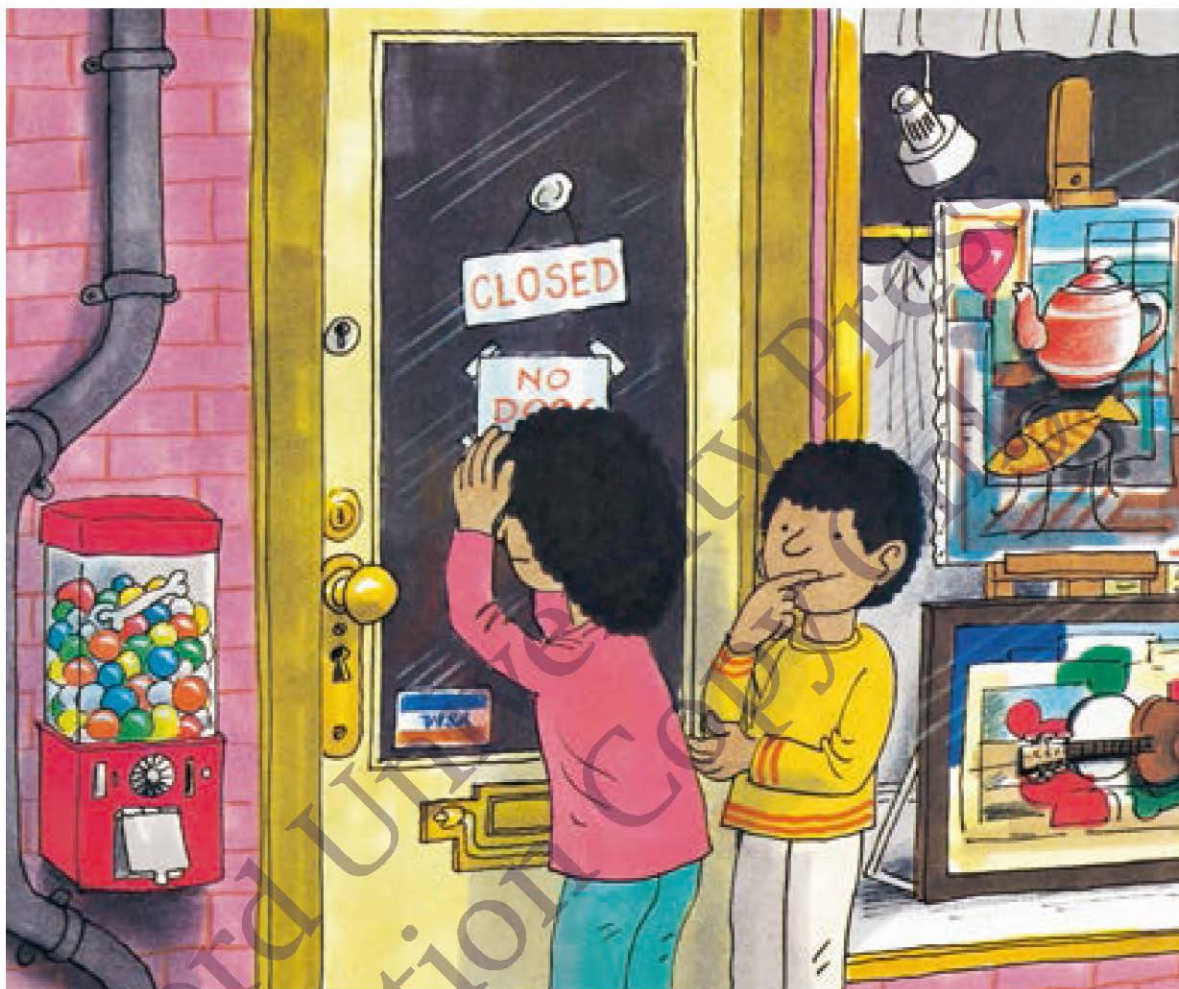
“Sorry,” said the lady. “I have just sold it.”



The lady told them who had it.

“A man came in,” she said. “He wanted some old keys.”

She told them that the man had a shop down the street.



The children went to the man's shop. In the window there were pictures and paintings.

"Why do you think the man wants old keys?" asked Wilf.



Wilma looked inside the shop. It was closed and she couldn't see the man.

"We must get our pocket money," said Biff. "We may have to buy the key back."

"Let's go home, then," said Chip.



Mum went to the shop with the children. She told the man about the key and how Kipper had lost it. She asked if they could have the key back.

“Yes,” said the man. “If you can find it.”



The man had painted some pictures and had put lots of keys in them. All the keys had been painted. The children looked at the pictures but they couldn't see the magic key.



They looked at all the pictures.

“All the keys look the same,” said Biff.
Suddenly Kipper saw a little picture. It had
one key in it.

“Here it is,” he said. “This is our key.”



The man told them that they would have to buy the picture. Biff and Chip gave Mum their pocket money, and Mum paid the man.

“It’s a lot to pay for an old key,” she said.



The children pulled the key from the picture and rubbed off the paint. Then they looked at it.

“The key has not glowed for a long time,” said Biff. “Perhaps it has lost its magic.”



“It’s been out in the rain,” said Wilf,
“and it’s been bent by a mower.”

“It’s been through a window,” said Chip,
“and it’s been stuck on a painting.”

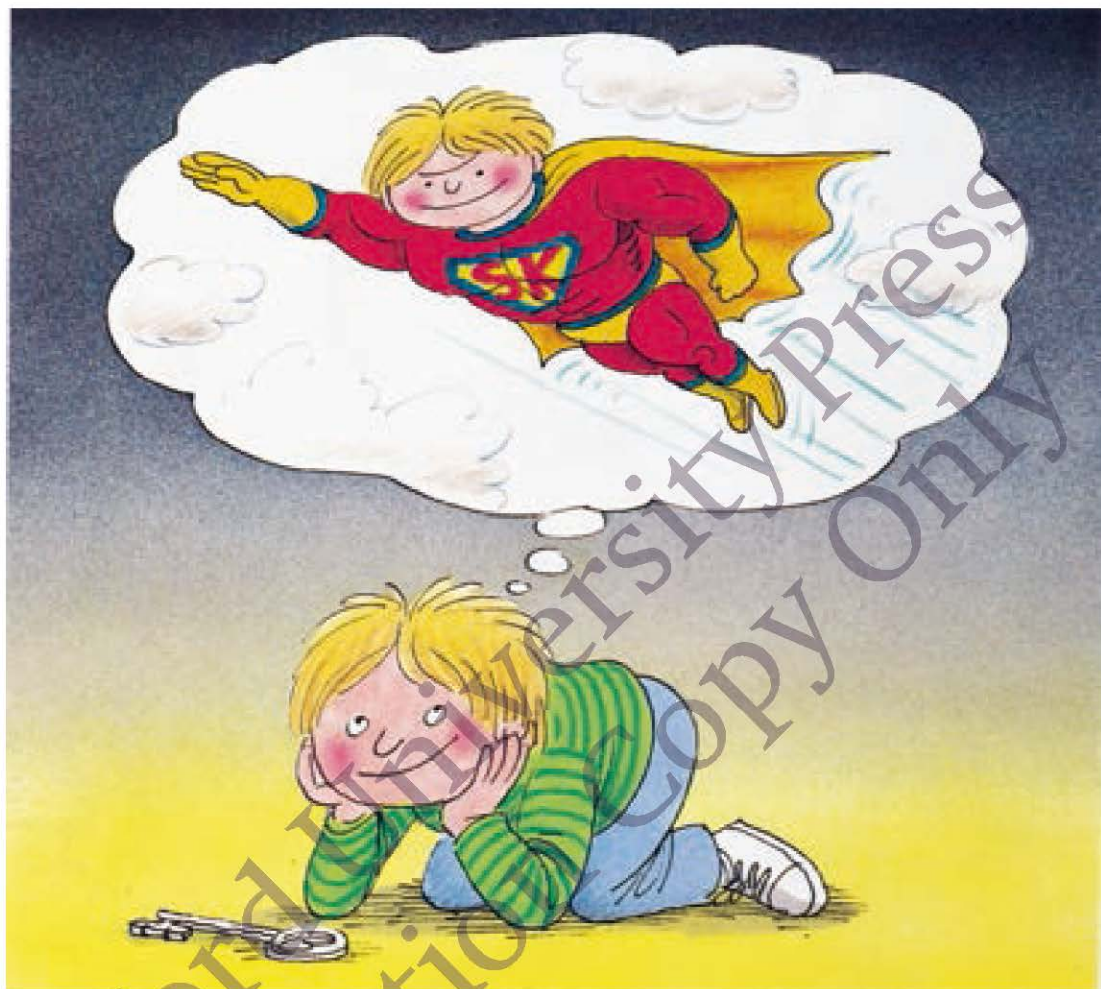
“It’s had a bad time,” said Wilma.



The children wanted the key to glow.
Wilma picked it up.

“Do you think it will ever glow again?”
she said. “Do you think the magic will still
work?”

“I don’t know,” said Biff. “I hope so.”



But the key didn't glow and the magic wouldn't work. Kipper told the key about the adventures he would like to have. But still the magic wouldn't work.



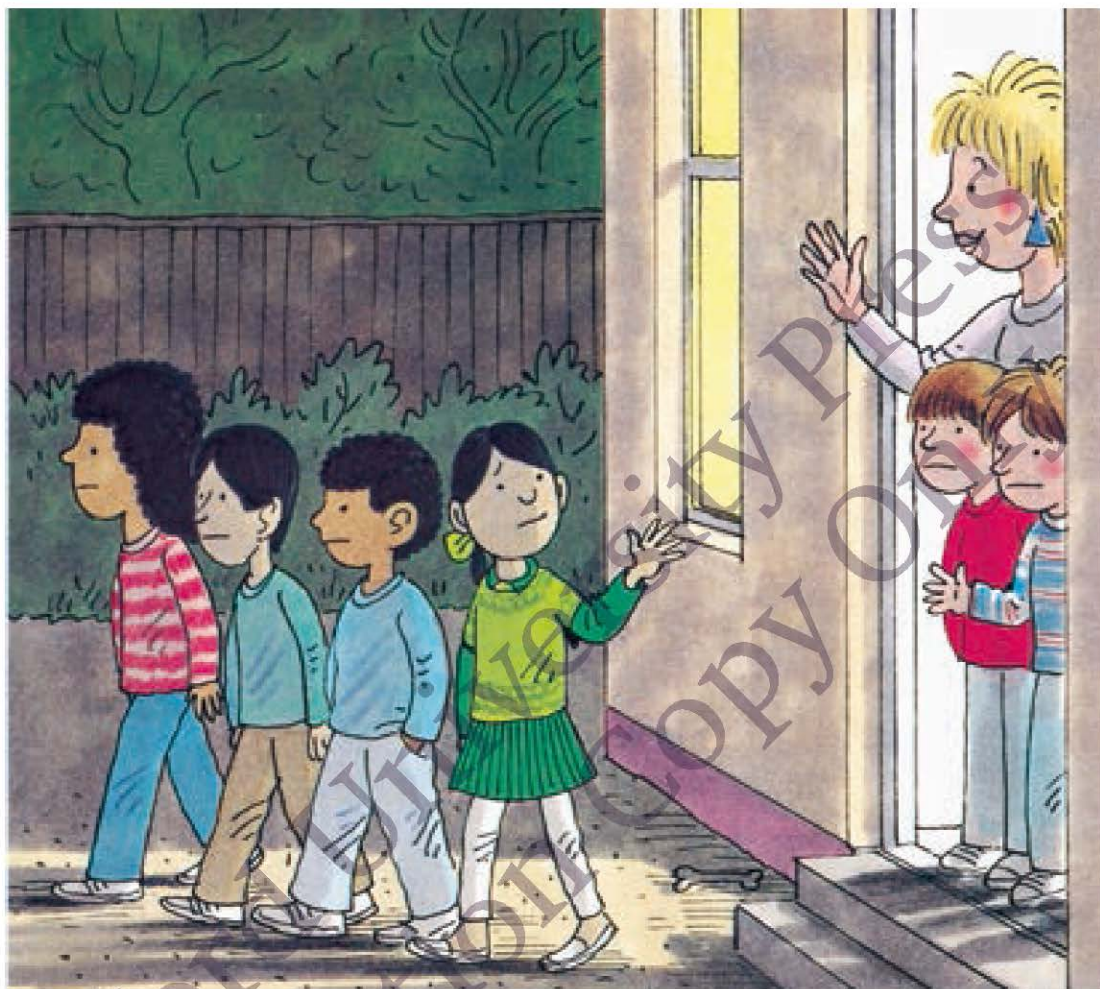
The next day, Wilf and Wilma came to the house with Nadim and Anneena. The children were sorry about the key. It still wouldn't glow and they were all very sad.



“How can we make the magic work again?” asked Wilma.

Anneena thought of a good idea.

“Let’s remind it of the magic adventures,” she said. “Maybe that will make it work.”



But the key still didn't glow. At last the children gave up. Mum told Biff and Chip it was time for their friends to go home.

"Cheer up," said Mum.



Kipper was sorry about the key.

“It’s all my fault,” he said and he began to cry.

“Don’t cry, Kipper,” said Chip. “Maybe the magic has just run out.”



Biff and Chip let Kipper take the key to bed. Kipper looked at it for a long time. At last he fell asleep. Suddenly, the magic key began to glow.

AFTER READING

- Turn to page 32. Ask: *What might happen in Kipper's adventure?*
- Discuss the people who had the key. Ask: *Who was helpful and who wasn't?*
- Pretend you are the man with the mower, then one of the boys, etc. Your child must ask you for the key as politely as possible each time.

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4 The Lost Key

Kipper loses the
magic key – will it
ever work again?



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- 2 Lost in the Jungle
- 3 The Broken Roof
- 4 The Lost Key
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